

**MINUTES
SENIOR ADVISORY BOARD
MAY 6, 2015**

I. Call Meeting to Order

Maureen Denig called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Roll call - Introductions were made all around the table.

Present: Maureen Denig, Jack Belchinsky, Juana Mendoza, Sean O'Halloran, Susanne Heinritz, Wilma Cocannouer, Daryl Nielson and Emily Sciortino. Guests: Michele Waite, Polly Christensen, Veronica Garzia, Amy Loberg, Ruth Waukau and Kathy Fedler.

II. Minutes

Motion was made by Sean O'Halloran and seconded by Jack Belchinsky to accept the April Minutes as written. An attachment of Brandy Queen's presentation will be added to this report.

III. Agenda

No additions/corrections to the agenda.

IV. Presentation

Kathy Fedler, Housing & Community Investment Manager with the City of Longmont gave a presentation of housing units, population, and employment history since 2005 to 2014. Housing units increased less than 5% whereas employment and population has risen over 10%.

Affordable housing: Longmont's home prices has risen 40%, affordability gap was evident by the wages of retail workers, teachers and health care workers and average wage earners. Kathy distributed **Longmont Comprehensive Plan** detailing housing situation.

At City Council Study Session May 12, 2015 Maureen Denig will represent the Senior Board and many of the Senior Board members will attend to show support.

Veronica Garzia, Seniors Resource Specialist and Amy Loberg, Seniors Resource Specialist both reported that fewer and fewer landlords are accepting Section 8 Vouchers. Wait lists are being closed. Vouchers if not used in time are not valid. Landlords have raised rents making some apartments unaffordable. The Housing Voucher Program has about 30% for Seniors, 30% for Disabled and about 30% for family.

Open House Update: Jack, Daryl and Wilma have tables set up for each representative. Desserts from King Sooper, Panera Bread, and other establishments have been requested. Wilma is looking into a form of entertainment. The Senior Center has some money for advertising, posters and flyers. It was suggested that a booth be set up at the library promoting our Open House.

May 12, 2015 the Caregiver Symposium will be at the Plaza Hotel/Conference Center.

VI. New Business

The Front Range Community College requested a volunteer to fill position for Counselor/Resource Coordinator. Daryl Nielsen has agreed to fill the position.

VII. Reports

Michele Waite distributed copies of her 2016 Budget ideas and requested input from the board members. Also distributed Public Sidewalk System questions 13-19 and 23 to members to fill out and return to her.

Polly Christensen reported that she will attend the May study meeting.

Maureen Denig reported that the Multicultural Committee received their Events Calendar for review and discussion.

A question was asked – how do we provide support to various cultural organizations when there is a transition of leadership? Do we include some link to city use of public places as a resource to organizers?

Regarding the 2016 budget, KR to follow-up with Maria Tostado about what dollar amount was recommended and to which events.

The Area Agency on Aging has a proclamation, signed by the County Commissioners, was signed, designating May as “Older American Month”.

There was a public hearing for the BCAA Area Plan. It is reviewed every four years. It demonstrates how the agency uses state and federal funds. The Age Well Plan has also been updated.

AAA Plan: Issues that were heard in the various discussion groups around Boulder County:
Transportation
Caregiver Support
Access to information and resources

VII. Reports (continued)

- Chore Services
- Nutrition for targeted audiences
- Information about benefits
- In-home services to stay in the community
- Need for affordable, accessible housing
- How the outreach is done makes a big difference
- Importance of word of mouth and building trust – networking
- Desire for more neighborliness.

We met with the Commissioners and they were asked four questions dealing with housing, nutrition, and access to essential services and transportation.

After the meeting, we stayed to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the AAA in Boulder County.

Susanne Heinritz reported that at the Friends April meeting they received a large gift from a woman's life insurance policy (\$58,000) more will be given after probate is settled.

If probate is finalized by the September Open House the gift will be recognized formally at the Open House. Should the gift be publicized in the promotion?

Last Resort had multiple requests - Friends awarded \$1700.32 to them.

Friends awarded \$2500 for the Latino End of Life Project.

The money given to Friday Afternoon Concerts combined with Cultural Event Fund to create new programs:

- Enrichment
- Educational
- Entertainment

Ideas were offered for future projects:

Inter generational -High School and Middle School Music Groups

Ruth Waukau asked members to attend May 12th City Council meeting – where she will propose broadening the Affordable Work Force Housing Project to include low income and older adults.

VII. Reports (continued)

Juana Mendoza reported that the Boulder County Latino Coalition had cancelled the April Meeting.

Brandy Queen's Report of the 2015 American Society on Aging Conference is attached.

Submitted by Emily Sciortino

Brandy Queen re: 2015 American Society on Aging conference:

Where We SHINE and Excel

- Utilizing volunteers to create and maintain services and programming; focus on senior volunteers
- Expansive funding- both City funding such as for my position as well as the Friends ongoing funding
- Programming for people across wide financial range
- Programming for people across wide age range
- Letting customers take lead on programming ideas
- Travel and trips exist outside our city/metro area
- Collaborating with others serving seniors in community to provide more/better services- esp having LUH on site, MOW on site, Folks In Aging, etc.
- Behavioral health forum is very unusual and including services for seniors in MH concerns is even more unusual
- Counseling services exist
- Even compared to the “Innovative Senior Centers,” we have a much higher level of exercise options, philosophy/discussion groups, emotional support, and trips.

Trends

- Stats:
 - Right now 29% of the US population is family caregivers. Within 20 years everyone in the country will either be a caregiver or care recipient.
 - Women are living 5 years longer than men on average, and over 75% of centenarians are women.
 - People with “severe” mental illness live 20 years less than rest of nation.
- Baby Boomers:
 - #1 concern is fun; #2 is health
 - Concern about differential programming for boomers/younger seniors (though not much direction on how to do so)
 - Café model vs. Cafeteria line model of food service for Boomers (want lots of choices)
- Dementia:
 - Focus on partnering with those with dementia rather than systems making decisions for them.
- Sexual Health:
 - Need for sexual health programming- high numbers of seniors getting STDs/STIs
 - Sexual health & sexual/intimacy **rights** of those in SNFs- Wisconsin and New York.
- Microaggressions and bullying:
 - Paying attention to losses incurred by aggressions (including loss of self-worth)- seniors are a target group.
 - When we deal with them in the Senior Center, help aggressors focus on impact of their statements rather than their intention (usually unintentional but still has impact)

- Senior Centers:
 - “We aren’t very good at marketing or advocating for ourselves or our customers.”

- Big focus on business model, charging for value of service, looking at customers as revenue streams; Older Americans Act funding not reliable. Suggest NO free services.
- NCOA rebuttal to the 3/19 Forbes article Why We Need to Get Rid of Senior Centers
- *Trend varies wildly* about changing name from Senior Center to think like “Center for Adults Living Well.”
- Special population Sr Centers in New York City- LGBT and vision/hearing impairment centers
 - Also have special population programming such as Russian/Jewish/Spanish cultural programs
- Mixed use, intergenerational sites- YMCA, schools. Helps dispel ageism.
- Trying to have flexible meeting spaces with movable chairs and tables... which we already do well
- Trying to shift focus to “The Upside of Aging”- theoretical overall.
- *Trend varies wildly* re: having adult day care on site at Sr Center
- *Trend varies wildly* re: complex clients with mental health issues absorbing a great deal of community service time/resources- is the case in some places, not in others.